GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3478
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD CROPS .
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The details of genetically modified food crops that are undergoing controlled field trials and the details of institutions developing such food crops in the country;

(b) Whether any company has submitted bio-safety data on any food crop to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee for seeking permission for large-scale field trials;

(c) Whether some of the agricultural universities in the country such as TN Agricultural University, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwar and the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, are also working on genetically modified varieties; and

(d) If so, the details and the progress of such experiments/ programmes ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Sir, the following are the details of genetically modified food crops that have undergonecontrolled field trials during 2005 and the institutions which are developing these food crops.

Sl. No.	Crop	Institute/Industry
1.	Brinjal	M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai M/s. Sungro Seeds Ltd, New Delhi Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.
2.	Cabbage	M/s. Sungro Seeds Ltd, New Delhi
3.	Cauliflower	M/s. Sungro Seeds Ltd, New Delhi
4.	Corn	M/s. Monsanto India Ltd., Mumbai
5.	Groundnut	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru
6.	Mustard	University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi
7.	Okra	M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd. Mumbai

8. Pigeonpea International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru

9. Rice Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai M/s. Metahelix Life Sciences, Bangalore

10. Tomato Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai

(b) M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai has submitted bio-safety data on Bt.brinjal expressing cry1Ac gene to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for grant of permission to conduct large scale field trials.

(c) & (d) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) is working on transgenic rice and Bt. brinjal; University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad and the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi are working on Bt. brinjal. TNAU is conducting field trials on transgenic rice lines expressing chitinase gene during Kharif-2006. Developmental work on Bt. brinjal at these institutes is at the initial stages of transferring the Bt. gene (cry1Ac gene) into their popular varieties through backcrossing programme.